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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 30 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Final Declaration of the fourteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the Blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted in Havana on 18 October 2017 (see annex).

In this regard, I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Final Declaration of the fourteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the Blockade

Havana, 18 October 2017

We, the representatives of civil society organizations, with the support of regional and international organizations with headquarters in Cuba, social actors and organizations, and religious, fraternal and national institutions, meeting at the fourteenth Forum of Civil Society Organizations against the Blockade, have agreed to:

1. Condemn unequivocally the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America on the Cuban people.

2. Reaffirm the right to self-determination of the Cuban people in building their own political, economic and social system in an independent, sovereign and peaceful manner, without external interference and rejecting all sorts of threats and coercion.

3. Recall the legal action initiated against the Government of the United States of America for its maintenance of the current blockade that has caused considerable human and economic damages to the people of Cuba, which have been quantified, according to conservative estimates, at over 130,178.6 million dollars at current prices, over the almost 60 years of its implementation.

4. Support the position of the Government of Cuba that the blockade should be lifted by the Government of the United States in a unilateral and unconditional manner, respecting the norms of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. Emphasize that the blockade qualifies as an act of genocide and constitutes a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people and of citizens of the United States and other countries, which has been compounded by the new measures announced by the United States Government.

6. Urge President Donald Trump to listen to the complaints made by the majority of his citizens, Cubans resident in the United States and members of his own political party, who support the lifting of the blockade and the normalization of relations with Cuba. Likewise, we reiterate our call for the United States Congress to pass a law that would facilitate the lifting of the blockade.

7. Convey, once again, that the blockade is a substantial hindrance to the right to development of the Cuban people, that it generates shortages and suffering for Cuban families, with a significant humanitarian impact, and hinders access to medication, medical equipment, technology and state-of-the-art therapeutic treatments that help to relieve and cure many diseases. The blockade hinders the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Demand a halt to the tracking of Cuban international economic and financial relations with entities in third countries, which attests to the extraterritorial scope of the blockade policy.

9. Call upon United States citizens and our counterpart organizations in the United States to maintain their support for the Cuban people in order to end this obsolete, hostile and unjust policy, which affects the normal development of relations between our peoples.

10. Recognize the role of United States non-governmental organizations in demonstrating the social and economic damages caused by the blockade, and also the solidarity that has been shown to us by all the regions of the world.

11. Support the submission to the General Assembly of the draft resolution "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" and to call for the international community to support this noble cause.